

Claims

1. A track (17;117) adapted for use in a hand-held, capsule-containing device (1;101) which is adapted to receive a series of capsules (21;121) therein and defines a conveying path along which the capsules are conveyable, wherein the path includes at least one fold section (23;123) thereby to provide the path with a space-saving configuration.
2. A track according to claim 1, wherein the path is an endless path.
3. A track according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the at least one fold section is inwardly directed.
4. A track according to claims 2 and 3, wherein the at least one fold section is directed towards another section of the path.
5. A track according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the at least one fold section is a loop section in the path.
6. A track according to claim 5, wherein the loop section is an inverted, generally U-shape section.
7. A track according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the path has a pair of opposed first side sections extending from first ends thereof generally in a first direction and a second side

section extending generally transversely to the first direction to connect the respective first ends of the first side sections and wherein the at least one fold section is in the second side section and has a pair
5 of opposed first side portions which extend generally in the first direction, the at least one fold section being directed such that each first side portion is in facing relation with a different first side section.

10 8. A track according to claim 7, wherein the first and second side sections define a generally W-shape when viewed in plan.

9. A track according to any one of the preceding
15 claims adapted to receive the capsules in a chain configuration.

10. A track according to any one of the preceding claims adapted to receive, and to enable conveying of,
20 elongate capsules oriented upright in the track.

11. A hand-held device (1;101) for conveying capsules therein having a track (17;117) according to any one of the preceding claims.

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12. A hand-held device according to claim 11 further having a plurality of capsules (21;121) in the track.

13. A hand-held device according to claim 12 in which
30 the capsules are in a chain configuration (19;119) in the track.

14. A hand-held device according to claim 13 in which the capsules are in an endless chain in the track.
- 5 15. A hand-held device according to claim 13 or 14 in which the capsules are linked together to form the chain.
16. A hand-held device according to any one of claims
10 12 to 15 in which the capsules are of elongate form and disposed upright in the track.
17. A hand-held device according to any one of claims
15 12 to 16 in which the capsules are of generally cylindrical form.
18. A hand-held device according to any one of claims
12 to 17 in which the capsules contain a powder.
- 20 19. A hand-held device according to any one of claims 12 to 18, wherein the capsules contain a medicament.
20. A hand-held device according to any one of claims
11 to 19 further having a conveying mechanism (27,31b-
25 f; 131,139) for conveying the capsules about the track.
21. A hand-held device according to claim 20 in which the conveying mechanism comprises at least one
30 sprocket (31b-f;131) for driving the capsules about the track.

22. A hand-held device according to claim 21, wherein
the at least one sprocket is located at a bend (35b-f;
135f) in the track for engaging the capsules for
5 advancement thereof along the track.

23. A hand-held device according to claim 22, wherein
the sprocket is located at the fold section.

10 24. A hand-held device according to any one of claims
11 to 23 adapted for use as a component part of an
inhalation device for delivering medicament to a
patient.

15 25. An inhalation device for delivering medicament to
a patient incorporating a hand-held device according
to any one of claims 11 to 24.

20 26. A track for use in a hand-held, capsule-
containing device substantially as hereinbefore
described with reference to, and as shown in, FIGURES
1 to 6 or FIGURES 7 to 14 of the accompanying
drawings.

25 27. A hand-held device adapted for conveying capsules
therein substantially as hereinbefore described with
reference to, and as shown in, FIGURES 1 to 6 or
FIGURES 7 to 14 of the accompanying drawings.